

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, SZ, KS, TW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROPOSAL FOR OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AS A RESULT OF AN ARTICLE BY DR.
LEONARD GREENTREE WRITTEN FOR THE NEW ENGLAND MEDICAL
JOURNAL ON A POSSIBLE LACK OF OPIUM FOR MEDICAL REQUIRE-
MENTS, MR. C. ROBERT SHAFFER, ASSOCIATED WITH A FIRM KNOWN
AS CESCO LTD., 288 CHI LIN ROAD, TAIPEI, TAIWAN, REPUBLIC
OF CHINA, COMMUNICATED WITH DR. GREENTREE INDICATING HE
COULD POSSIBLY ARRANGE FOR THE LEGAL PRODUCTION OF OPIUM
ABROAD AND FOR ITS EXPORT TO THE USA IF DR. GREENTREE COULD
LOCATE LEGITIMATE BUYERS.

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2. THE LATTER CONTACTED THE COLUMBUS, OHIO LAW FIRM OF

BRICKER, EVATT, BARTON AND ECKLER WHICH IN TURN COMMUNICATED WITH MALLINCKRODT CHEMICAL WORKS OF ST. LOUIS, MO. IT APPARENTLY INDICATED GENERAL INTEREST IN LEGAL PURCHASE OF OPIUM WITHOUT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN BEING IDENTIFIED.

3. ON THIS BASIS, SHAFFER COMMUNICATED WITH A GROUP HEADED BY MR. PARK KWAN KYU OWNERS OF THE SANGBAN FARM CO. LTD., 251 SHIN LYE WON-RI YESAN-UP, YESAN KUN CHUNG, CHONGNAM DO, REPUBLIC OF KOREA. ACCORDING TO SHAFFER, 95 ACRES

(34 HECTARES) OF PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM WILL BE PLANTED IN JANUARY 1976 AT THE SANGBAN FARM WITH SEED PROVIDED BY THE ROK GOVERNMENT. SHAFFER INDICATED APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT WAS NOW BEFORE ROK PARLIAMENT. THIS SMALL PLANTING, IF IT DOES IN FACT TAKE PLACE, WOULD APPEAR TO BE OF EXPERIMENTAL PILOT PROJECT VARIETY.

4. AS YOU ARE AWARE, UNDER ARTICLE 24 OF THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OF 1961, THE ROK IS NOT A COUNTRY AUTHORIZED TO PRODUCE OPIUM FOR EXPORT. HOWEVER, UNDER ARTICLE 24, PARAGRAPH 2, SUB-PARAGRAPH (A), THERE IS PROVISION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS FOR COUNTRIES SUCH AS ROK TO PRODUCE UP TO FIVE TONS OF OPIUM ANNUALLY FOR EXPORT THROUGH NOTIFICATION OF THE INCB AND, UNDER SUB-PARAGRAPH (B), OVER FIVE TONS THROUGH APPLICATION TO ECOSOC. AGAIN, APPROVAL WOULD DEPEND UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS BEING MET.

5. WE BELIEVE THE INCB MAY WISH TO INQUIRE AS TO THE INTENTIONS OF THE ROK ON THIS MATTER AND, ACCORDINGLY, GENEVA IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS IT WITH APPROPRIATE INCB OFFICIALS.

6. THE USG REMAINS OPPOSED TO ANY NEW SOURCE FOR GUM OPIUM PRODUCTION AND IS UNLIKELY TO AUTHORIZE IMPORTS FROM ANY NEW PRODUCTION. MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS ARE BEING ADEQUATELY MET IN 1975, AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THROUGH GUM OPIUM IMPORTS FROM INDIA AND POPPY STRAW CONCENTRATE IMPORTS FROM SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

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7. (FYI: ACCORDING TO DEA, MALLINCKRODT ADVISES THAT THEY HAD COMPLETED A PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH DR. GREENTREE WHEREBY HE WOULD BE REMUNERATED FOR FINDING COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN LEGALLY SELLING OPIUM EXCLUSIVELY TO THEM. MALLINCKRODT WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT TAIWAN WAS ONE SUCH COUNTRY AND THAT THE OPIUM WOULD BE FROM ILLICIT TRAFFIC SEIZURES. GREENTREE SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED OPIUM WOULD BE FROM PROPOSED PRODUCTION IN ROK.

MALLINCKRODT ADVISES DEA THAT IT IS WELL AWARE ROK WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED UNDER THE APPROPRIATE PROVISION OF THE SINGLE CONVENTION TO OBTAIN APPROVAL TO PRODUCE AND THAT SUCH WAS UNLIKELY TO BE OBTAINED. MALLINCKRODT DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS ARRANGEMENT WITH DR. GREENTREE WILL GO ANY FURTHER. WHAT THEY HAD THOUGHT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE SEIZED STOCKS FROM TAIWAN HAS SHIFTED TO COMPLICATED PLAN FOR KOREAN PRODUCTION WITH WHICH THEY WANT NO PART IN KOREA OR ELSEWHERE. END FYI)

8. AFTER REVIEWING THIS MATTER WITH THE INCB, GENEVA IS REQUESTED TO REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATION AS TO WHETHER THE EMBASSY SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE ROK GOVERNMENT OR REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE LEFT ENTIRELY TO THE INCB. KISSINGER

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